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# AGRICULTURAL BULLETIN

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BERMUDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Gordon R. Groves, Director of Agriculture

## AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION

This is the month for the Agricultural Exhibition. All of the planning and preparing has reached the final stage and it now rests upon the exhibitors to finish the job with a record number of entries.

The ring events have been finalized. We are very fortunate in having Mr. Harry de Leyer of Long Island, New York, return with four exhibition jumpers. One of these will be the world famous jumper "Snow Man". The story of this horse is quite amazing, since he was purchased by Mr. de Leyer for $70.00 while being shipped to a slaughterhouse. From this start the horse developed into a top show jumper and was selected the horse of the year in open jumping in 1959. Also coming will be a pony which will be ridden by Mr. de Leyer's nine year old son, Joseph. The other two horses have competed extensively in shows on the eastern seaboard of the United States.

Gymkhana and jumping events featuring pony club entries will take place on Saturday, in fact, most of Saturday will be given over to horse events in the ring.

The grounds will open at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the first day of the Exhibition, and cattle judging will take place until 3 p.m. A display by the Local Forces, and also Dog Obedience displays by the Bermuda Kennel Club will be featured during the afternoon.

Friday will also be a day for the horses, with driving horses being shown along with jumping exhibitions.

On display throughout the three days of the Show will be Livestock, including poultry and rabbits; vegetables; fruit; flowers and plants; food products, including a special section for Professional Bakers; handicraft; and farm tractors.

Mrs. Franklin Benkard of New York will assist Mr. Roy M. Nordine of Illinois and Mr. Roy Forster of Ontario in the judging of the flowers.

The Horticultural Hall will contain more group displays of flowers than ever before. This hall has always been a show-piece for the Exhibition and visitors are sure to enjoy the exhibits planned for this year.

Luncheons and teas will be served on the grounds so that visitors can spend the entire day viewing the many and varied exhibits.

**Trophies to be Awarded during the three days of the Exhibition.**

HORSES

The Clay Merrell Trophy, for riding horses 15.2 hands and over.

S.P.C.A. Cup for Best Commercial Turnout Carriage.

S.P.C.A. Cup for Best Commercial Turnout Truck Horse.

S.P.C.A. Shield for Best Farm Horse in the Show.

S.P.C.A. Cup for Best Horse in the Show.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Thompson's Cup for Best Bermuda Bred Horse or Pony in the Show.

CATTLE

Board of Agriculture Challenge Cup for Best Dairy Animal in Show.

Beacon Milling Cup for Best Dairy Cow in Show.

Government Veterinary Officer's Cup for Best Uddered Aged Cow.

Olands Lindwood Farms Trophy for Best Ayrshire Cow.

Sir Howard Trott Cup for Best Dry Ayrshire Cow.

S.P.C.A. Cup for Best Cared for Heifer.

S.P.C.A. Cup for Best Cared for Bull.

S.P.C.A. Cup for Best Cared for Cow.

PIGS

Board of Agriculture Challenge Cup for Best Pig in Show.

RABBITS

Mr. Leslie Martin's Shield for the Best Rabbit in the Show.

POULTRY

Board of Agriculture Challenge Cup for Best Bird in Show.
Pearman, Watlington & Company Cup for Best of Opposite Sex.

FLOWERS

Board of Agriculture Shield for Best Commercial Flower Growers Collection.

Board of Agriculture Shield for Best Florist Arrangement.

Board of Agriculture Shield for Best Display of One Kind of Flower or Plant.

Board of Agriculture Cup for the Best Display by Arbor Societies.

Bermuda Florist Rose Bowl for Exhibitor winning highest aggregate of points in Class 4 (Flowers), excluding Commercial Floral Exhibits and Group Displays.

VEGETABLES

A Cup presented by the Hon. Edmund Gibbons for Best Collection of Vegetables in Exhibition.

FOOD PRODUCTS

The Hall Cup, presented by Sir Roger and Lady Hall will be awarded to the competitor gaining the most points for not more than 20 entries selected by the competitor when entering her exhibits.

Beekeepers Cup for the Exhibitor gaining most points for Food Products using Bermuda Honey.

A Cup will be presented to the Professional Baker with the most points gained for his or her entries.

CHILDREN'S EXHIBITS

Wakie-Wakie Cup for the Child winning the most points for Food Products.

Board of Agriculture Shield for Best School Garden Collection of Vegetables.

Board of Agriculture Shield for the Child winning the most points in Exhibition.

PARISH COMPETITION

The Trott Shield, presented in 1943 by the Hon. Sir Howard Trott, C.B.E., Kt., for the Parish making the best showing of produce grown, and food products made in the Parish. The present holder is Paget Parish.

All trophies and special prizes will be presented during the three days of the Agricultural Exhibition and prize winners will be asked to be on the grounds and near the Announcers Box at the times specified in the Programme, so that they might receive their awards in front of the Official Stand when called.

## DISPLAY OF LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE IN LONDON

Throughout the history of the Department of Agriculture, locally grown produce has been exhibited at Agricultural and Horticultural Shows held overseas. However, the official records of these are very sketchy and details are now difficult to trace.

About two years ago, a silver Sir Walter Raleigh medal was forwarded to this Department by the widow of the late Mr. T. J. Harris. As some of our readers will recall, Mr. T. J. Harris was Superintendent of the Public Gardens from 1904 to 1912. This medal was awarded to Mr. Harris for tobacco exhibited in London in 1908. The tobacco was grown in Bermuda, presumably at the Public Gardens, Paget, the forerunner of the present Botanical Garden.

On occasions, Bermuda Easter Lily flowers have been exhibited in London, a notable occasion, was at the special display of flowers and plants of the British Commonwealth, staged at the Chelsea Flower Show, held in May, 1953, to commemorate the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The recent exhibit of Bermuda Produce staged by the writer and assisted by Mr. Edward A. Manuel at the Royal Horticultural Society Show in London

on the 28th February and 1st March, 1961 is perhaps the most ambitious exhibit undertaken by this Department at an overseas show.

Some twenty-three varieties of citrus fruit, many of which were donated by the Bermuda citrus growers, were arranged in special exhibition baskets on a 15 ft. by 4½ ft. stand. The fruit was flanked at either end by **Strelitzia Reginea** (Bird-of-Paradise) and **Lilium Howardii.** Foliage of **Murraya Exotica** and **Podocarpus Longifolia** were also used to advantage. The tree ripened and highly coloured citrus fruit made a very spectacular display. It is of interest to note that a large shaddock placed in the centre of the exhibit was grown by Mr. and Mrs. H. Richardson of Paget, a fruit which received a first prize in the Bermuda Citrus Exhibition held in January. Four varieties of Tangelos, extremely well coloured, commanded much interest, many people enquiring if it is possible to buy this fruit in the London shops.

It is most gratifying that this exhibit was so well received by the Royal Horticultural Society, and commanded so much interest by the many spectators who visited the Show during the two days. The exhibit received the Silver Gilt Lindley Medal, which is awarded for exhibits of botanical and scientific interest.

Exhibits of this kind are, therefore, extremely valuable to Bermuda as a whole, and I would like to officially record my sincere thanks to the growers who donated the fruit. Through the combined efforts of these growers and the Department of Agriculture, a really worthwhile exhibit of Bermuda-grown produce was undertaken, and one which would bear repeating in the future.

G. R. G.

## FLOWERS FOR THE FLORAL PAGEANT

The Floral Pageant, organised by the Bermuda Chamber of Commerce, to be held on the 27th April, is not strictly a horticultural undertaking, but the Department of Agriculture have always supported this annual event in one form or another. It seems appropriate that a note at this time should appear in this bulletin on this important event.

In recent years, with the use of the floral Glue, it has been proved that a much greater variety of flowers and foliage can be used in making the floats. This is a great advantage, because if one flower is in short supply, substitutes can now be more easily found. In addition there is a great deal of live plant material which may be used in the make up of the float. This has been freely demonstrated by some organisations, and the resulting float has developed into a masterpiece of ingenuity and painstaking effort. Therefore, do not be discouraged if your first choice of material is not available, but look around for substitutes. It is these substitutes which make the building of the float so interesting, and the final product so attractive.

The Department of Agriculture will have a limited quantity of flowers available for the Pageant, but these will not be given to individuals or to organisations, they will be turned over to the Floral Pageant Committee, who will allocate them.

The hope is therefore expressed that the whole community will give the Chamber of Commerce their whole hearted support, to make the forthcoming Floral Pageant a huge success.

G. R. G.

## BANANAS NEED FERTILIZER

Within these pages details have been given from time to time on the cultivation of the Banana. Looking at some of the banana plantations in recent weeks, one gains the impression that many of these have not been given any attention for a considerable time.

The banana is an extremely valuable crop and there is always a keen demand for the fruit. For instance, the Government Wholesale Marketing Centre could handle more bananas than are at present offered for sale to that organization. Steps should, therefore, be taken to increase the production of the banana, by good cultural methods.

### Cultivation and Fertilization

The banana plantation should be kept free of weeds by occasional hoeing. A mulch of farm manure or seaweed is extremely beneficial, but as farm manure is not now readily available, and seaweed is both difficult and expensive to collect, other forms of fertilizer must be used. The banana needs a fertilizer which contains a fairly high percentage of nitrogen. An application of balanced fertilizer, such as 10-10-10 applied at the rate of one-half pound per plant every six months is recommended. To supply the extra nitrogen, apply a half pound of sulphate of ammonia per plant every eight weeks in addition to the balanced fertilizer. Both the 10-10-10 and the sulphate of ammonia should be spread in a band twelve to eighteen inches wide, from one to three feet from the base of the stem, according to the size of the plant. In some places the practice of thinning the suckers to one bearing stem, one stem four months younger, and a third, four months younger again, is recommended. In the thinning operation, all broad leaved suckers should be removed, and only the thin leaved or "sword suckers" retained.

Old plantations can be rejuvenated by lifting and re-planting. In this case, only the good sword suckers should be replanted, after the land has been well ploughed and cultivated. The young plants should be planted in rows not closer than 6 ft. x 6 ft. Like many other crops the banana suffers from wind damage. Good wind breaks are needed round the entire plantation. Oleander or casuarina are excellent for planting as shelter belts.

G. R. G.

## MUSTARD AND CRESS, WHY NOT?

Mustard and cress is a favourite salad in England, but one which is rarely used in Bermuda. It is perhaps one of the easiest salads to grow, and yet for some reason it has not become popular here. This may be due to the fact that this Department has not attempted to grow it in recent years, and to bring it to the attention of the public.

While in England recently, the writer obtained some seed of both mustard and cress, and is now in the process of growing this, to be placed on show at the Agricultural Exhibition.

This useful salading is grown and eaten in the cotyledon stage. The seed may be sown in boxes filled with fine soil to within one inch of the top. The seed should be sown thickly and evenly over the surface, and gently pressed into the soil with a smooth flat board, but not covered with soil. After watering gently, the boxes should be covered with a pane of glass, and placed in a garden frame or slat house. After germination remove the pane of glass. The seedlings will be ready for cutting in from 10-14 days.

Alternately, the seed may be sown on flannel, which is kept moist. The mustard seed should be sown four days later than the cress because it germinates more quickly.

G. R. G.

## ON THE FARMS

The big problem for local farmers over the past two months has been one of water — lack of water that is. At the time of writing of this article there had been less than 1 inch of rainfall during March and less than 3 inches since February 1st. The rainfall for February at the Botanical Gardens was 2.18 inches, but the great majority of this rain fell during the first 12 days of February with the result that from February 13th to March 22nd only .8 of an inch of rain had fallen. The normal rainfall for February is 4.54 inches and for March 4.62 inches giving a normal total of 9.16 inches.

This rainfall deficit has resulted in a general stunting of vegetables. Potatoes promise to be the hardest hit. Those potatoes which were planted during January will perhaps be the worse affected since they cannot hope to make top growth and fill out with so little moisture. Late planted potatoes might do better if rains fall during the next week or so. Potatoes planted in the low lands of Southampton are looking well, particularly those of Mr. James Oliveira and Mr. Joseph Oliveira. Those farmers who have potatoes on high land will stand to lose a great deal as a result of this serious drought.

Cole crops will be in good supply during April — particularly cabbage. There are several good fields of Cauliflower which should be ready for cutting this month.

Tomatoes will continue to be very scarce. The only farmer with any quantity is John Tavares of Sir Howard Trott's Rockmore Farm.

There are lots of string beans planted. How many will be harvested remains to be seen and is pretty much dependent upon whether rain comes soon. Sweet Corn might be available in very small quantities by the end of the month but most farmers will not be ready to cut corn until the middle of May. Hubbard Squash will also start to come on the market by the end of April.

Second-year plantings of strawberries have been yielding well this season. Usually it is quite difficult to carry strawberry plants over from one season to the next in Bermuda. The very wet Fall of 1960 probably helped to overcome this problem. In any case there are several plots of second-year plants which

are very vigorous. Mrs. Enoch Moniz of Paget has perhaps the best berries so far this season.

Easter Lilies were very much in the forefront during the latter half of March. There are fewer than 10 acres of lilies under cultivation at present in Bermuda but rather than being a dying industry the demand for cut stems this year was very good and most of the growers who are fortunate enough to still have lilies were wishing they had many more. The early date of Easter meant that only the early blooming Howardii lily was of any use for cutting. It is always difficult to hit the market just right with a flower crop. Weather conditions, site of planting, fertilizer programme, etc., all play an important role in determining when a lily stem will be suitable for cutting in the closed-bud state. Next year with Easter being very late the late blooming Harissii and Longiflorum types will be in demand so growers had better plan now to do all that they can to foster these lilies during the coming season.

CARLYLE HOLLIS,
Agriculture Officer

I. W. HUGHES,
Assistant Director of Agriculture.

## SPECIFIC PLANTS AND THEIR RELATION IN THE BERMUDA LANDSCAPE

This is the first article of a series in which we will discuss specific plants, their value, use and relation to the Bermuda Landscape.

Many plants may be used in several totally different settings with equal success, and I may, therefore, be guilty of repetition, which will, however, be necessary.

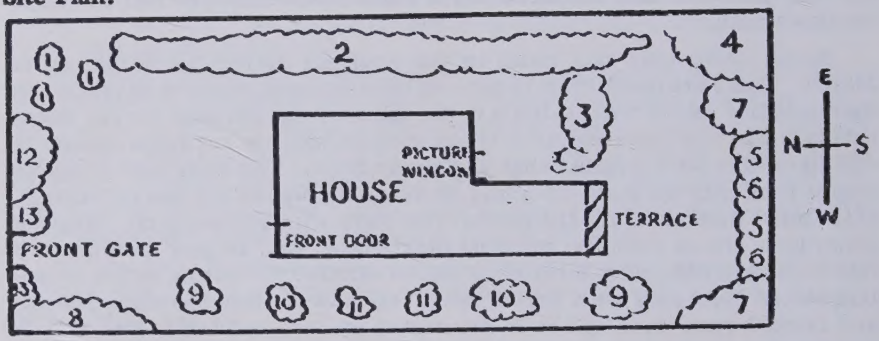
As mention has been made in recent articles of hedges, we will deal with this aspect of the landscape, first.

Initially we must decide just what we are looking for. The following points should, assist us, in reaching our decision:—

a. Exposure of site
b. Proximity to the sea
c. Flowering or non-flowering
d. Height and maximum width
e. Evergreen or deciduous
f. Depth and quality of soil

Let us assume that out site is exposed. That is it in close proximity of the sea, and open to it on one side. Soil depth is variable but in reasonable good organic condition. We want some colour. We **are patient.** Privacy is required on two sides. We do not want to hide the sea, which is on our Southern flank. The Western boundary only requires partial breaking up.

**Site Plan:**




**Key and Remarks:**

**Eastern Flank:**

Privacy from Roadway desirable, Planting set back five feet inside boundary.

1. Canary Island Date Palms.
2. Mixed Hedge, comprising of Viburnum; Hibiscus; Croton; Plumbago; Myrtle; Cassia; Bermuda Holly; Oleander; Elaeagnus.
3. Protective hedge and screen to Kitchen or Fruit Garden, of Natal Plum.
4. Coconut Palms.

**Southern Flank:**

View of sea-protection without loss of view desired. 5. Buttonwood. 6. Sophora tomentosa. 7. Bay Grape.

**Western Flank:**

Only require to break view down, therefore no solid planting.

8. Bauhinia galpinii. 9. Olive. 10. Lucky Nut. 11. Canary Island Date Palm.

**Northern Flank:**

Privacy from Main road essential. Planting set back five feet inside boundary.

12. Oleander hybrids. 13. Spruce (Tamarisk), grown up in arch over gate.

In the next article we will discuss the merits of some of these plants.

DONALD J. MOORE,
Superintendent,
Bermuda Botanical Gardens.

## WEATHER RECORDING STATION AT BOTANICAL GARDENS

**Summary of Climatological date obtained at the Botanical Garden during March, 1961**

Mean Maximum temperature 68.8
Mean Minimum temperature 58.6
Mean monthly temperature 63.7
Absolute maximum 73.9 on March 9th.
Absolute minimum 50.2 on March 4th.
Rainfall 1.48 inches.
No. of rain days 9